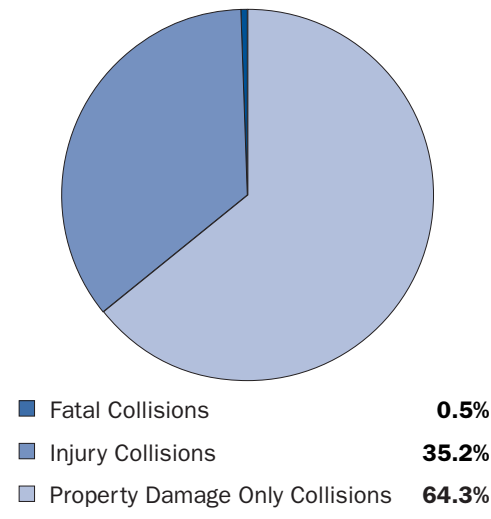


Number of Injury and Fatal Collisions Drops for Fifth Straight Year

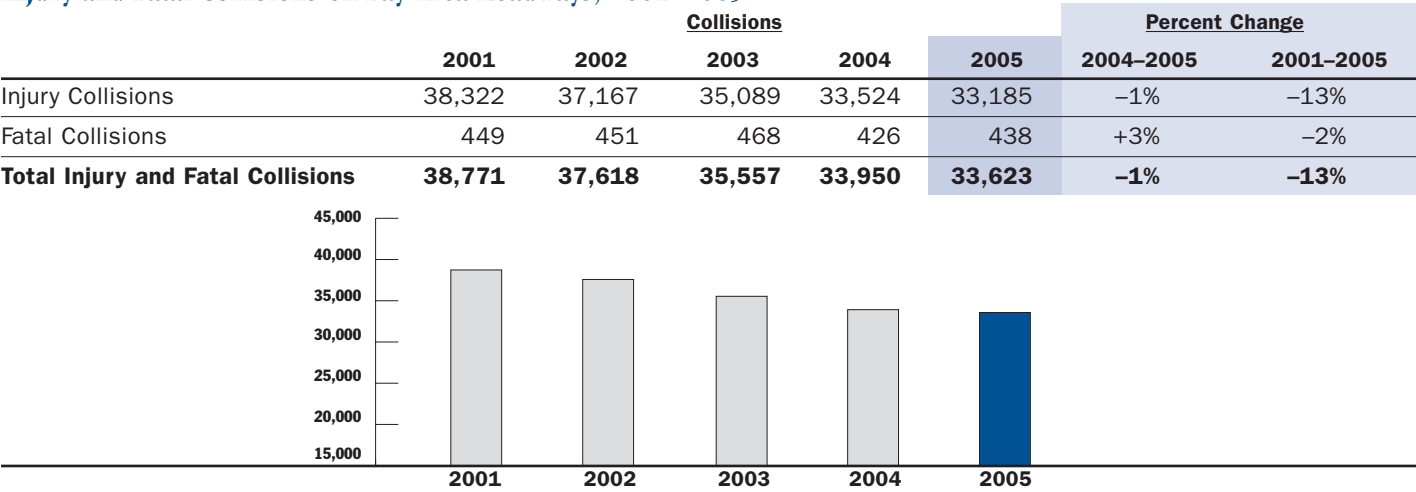
- The total number of reported injury and fatal motor vehicle collisions in the Bay Area fell 1 percent in 2005, continuing a trend that stretches back to 2001. Over the past five years, the total number of injury and fatal collisions has decreased 13 percent regionwide.
- Despite the slight drop in the combined number of injury and fatal motor vehicle collisions, the number of fatal collisions increased 3 percent in 2005.
- Fortunately, most motor vehicle collisions do not result in injuries or fatalities. In 2005, 64 percent of collisions involved property damage only, which is in line with prior years. Approximately 35 percent of collisions resulted in injuries, and about one-half of one percent caused fatalities.

Motor Vehicle Collisions in the Bay Area  
In 2005: Fatal, Injury, Property Damage



Source: California Highway Patrol  
95,202 collisions = 100%

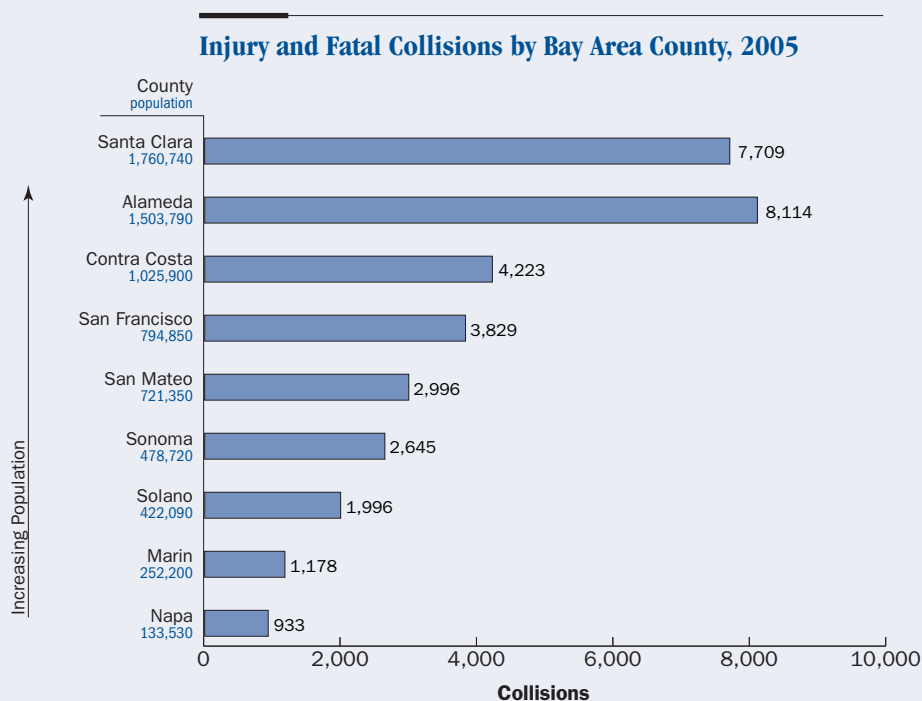
Injury and Fatal Collisions on Bay Area Roadways, 2001–2005



Source: California Highway Patrol

- The 95,202 reported collisions (including those resulting in injury, fatality or property damage) in 2005 represented a 1 percent drop from 2004, when 96,069 collisions were reported.
- Several key factors influence the number of collisions. These include: driver education and behavior, vehicle safety features, roadway conditions, traffic congestion and total number of miles driven. Studies suggest that while freeway driving accounts for approximately 60 percent of all miles driven in the Bay Area, only about 25 percent of all collisions occur on freeways.

**A Closer Look** – We can get a rough idea of the geographic distribution of injury and fatal collisions by breaking them out by county of occurrence. In general, a given county's share of collisions correlates closely with its size, as measured by population (see bar graph). The greatest number of collisions occurs in Alameda County, though it ranks second to Santa Clara County in terms of population. This is probably explained by the fact that Alameda is a “crossroads” county, within whose borders a significant number of vehicle miles of travel are logged each year — both by its own residents and those from other counties.



Sources: California Highway Patrol, California Department of Finance